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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/713,549	11/14/2003	Tareq Risheq	TAREQ.001A	7963

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EXAMINER

GHATT, DAVE A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2854

DATE MAILED: 03/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/713,549

Applicant(s)

RISHEQ, TAREQ

Examiner

Dave A. Ghatt

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 November 2003.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 9-23 and 25 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) 6-8 and 24 is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 October 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-5, 15, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sandbach et al. (US 6,585,162). Insofar as structure is recited, Sandbach et al. anticipates the claimed invention. With respect to claims 1 and 25, as shown in Figure 7, Sandbach et al. teaches an apparatus for communicating data to a detached device, the apparatus comprising, an alphanumeric keyboard (comprising layers 701-709, and 711), the keyboard comprising a plurality of keys (means for generating characters) 716, the keyboard having a lower surface 702, the keyboard being configured to communicate data representative of alphanumeric information to the device, and an object (cushioning means) 750 attached to the keyboard along at least a portion of the lower surface of the keyboard, the object 750 being adapted for providing a cushioned region between the keyboard and a resting place (column 4 lines 1-8). The applicant should note that claim 1 does not require a remote device as recited.

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With respect to claim 2, as shown in Figure 2, the object 750 comprises a housing configured to contain substantially the entire lower surface 702 of the keyboard so that the plurality of keys 716 are exposed to a user.

With respect to claim 3, Sandbach et al. teaches in column 12 lines 8-18, an embodiment of the support layer that includes polyester fibers.

With respect to claims 4 and 5, as shown in Figures 4 and 7, Sandbach et al. teaches the housing having a substantially flat lower surface when not in contact with a resting place. Figure 5 shows the support conforming to the shape of the resting place, having a substantially V-shaped lower surface to align with two thighs.

With respect to claim 15, the alpha numeric keyboard taught Sandbach et al. in column 4 lines 25-35 comprises data representative of a Latin-based alphabet.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sandbach et al. (US 6,585,162). Sandbach et al. teaches all the claimed subject matter except Sandbach et al. does not teach a detached device to which data is communicated. To one of ordinary skill in the art, it would be obvious to use the keyboard and electronic processor 302, taught by Sandbach et al., to communicate data to a satellite receiver, in order to send information to other remote

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electronic processors within a wireless network. Furthermore, electronic processors as taught by Sandbach et al. are routinely used to send data via wireless transmission.

5. Claims 9-13, 16, 17, and 19-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sandbach et al. (US 6,585,162) in view of Amro et al. (US 6,664,949). With respect to claims 9-13 and 16, As outlined above, Sandbach et al. teaches a keyboard that includes all the recited structure, except for a wireless transmitter configured to communicate to a wireless signal representative of a key pressed by a user. Amro et al. teaches a keyboard similar to that of Sandbach et al. Figure 1 of Amro et al. illustrates a keyboard 102, which as outlined in column 4 lines 34-42 sends IR wireless signals indicative of a key pressed by a user. Column 6 lines 44-53 also teach the RF signals. Column 3 lines 1-13 teach the use of transmitters for sending the wireless signals. To one of ordinary skill in the art, it would have been obvious to use a wireless controls and mechanisms as taught by Amro et al. in the apparatus of Sandbach et al. in order to enable communication with any of a plurality of remote data processing units, as taught by Amro et al. in column 1 line 66 to column 2 line 2.

With respect to claim 11, although Sandbach et al. and Amro et al. does not specifically outline transmission in the ISM band, to one of ordinary skill in the art, it would be obvious to include transmission in this range in order to have signals that can be communicated worldwide.

With respect to claim 17, both the data processing means 201 of the main references Sandbach et al., and the data processing means of secondary reference 104 have screens to display alphanumeric symbols entered by a user.

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With respect to claims 19-23, as outlined above, Figure 7 of Sandbach et al. teaches all the steps of configuring to communicate data representative of alphanumeric information, and attaching a cushioned object 750 to at least a portion of a lower surface of the alphanumeric keyboard. However Sandbach et al. does not teach the steps of configuring a transmitter to communicate data via IF or RF links. As stated above, to one of ordinary skill in the art, it would have been obvious to use a wireless controls and mechanisms as taught by Amro et al. in the apparatus of Sandbach et al. in order to enable communication with any of a plurality of remote data processing units, as taught by Amro et al. in column 1 line 66 to column 2 line 2.

With respect to claim 23, the cushioned object 750, taught in the primary reference Sandbach et al. has a shape that resembles any one of a variety of board games, such as monopoly or chess.

6. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meyers et al. (US 6,708,228) in view of Sandbach et al. (US 6,585,162). Meyers et al. teaches in column 8 lines 9-52, a wireless keyboard arrangement including additional peripheral devices as recited. Column 8 lines 9-52 teach a wireless keyboard arrangement having a microphone, video camera, speakers and processors to receive video and audio information for communicating with remote devices. Meyers et al. teaches all the claimed subject matter except for an arrangement that includes a keyboard with a cushioning arrangement as outlined in claim 1. Sandbach et al. teaches a keyboard arrangement similar to the keyboard of Meyers et al. Sandbach et al. teaches an alphanumeric keyboard (comprising layers 701-709, and 711), the keyboard comprising a plurality of keys (means for generating characters) 716, the keyboard having a lower surface 702,

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the keyboard being configured to communicate data representative of alphanumeric information to the device, and an object (cushioning means) 750 attached to the keyboard along at least a portion of the lower surface of the keyboard, the object 750 being adapted for providing a cushioned region between the keyboard and a resting place (column 4 lines 1-8). To one of ordinary skill in the art, it would have been obvious to use the keyboard as taught by Sandbach et al. in the arrangement of Meyers et al. in order to provide cushioned support as outlined in column 4 lines 1-12.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 6-8 and 24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 6 is indicated as having allowable subject matter because the prior art of record does not teach or render obvious the total combination taught including an apparatus for communicating data wherein the object adapted for providing a cushioned region comprises one of a football, soccer ball, volleyball, basketball, and rugby ball.

Claim 24 is indicated as having allowable subject matter because the prior art of record does not teach or render obvious the total method taught, including the steps of selecting a cushioned object comprising one of a soccer ball, football, basketball, and a volleyball.

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Conclusion

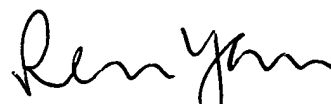
8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The applicant's attention is invited to the patent to Darden (5,145,270 teaching a keyboard for communicating with a remote device, the keyboard including cushioning means 52), which appears to meet the limitations of claims 1 and 25.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dave A. Ghatt whose telephone number is (571) 272-2165. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays through Friday 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew H. Hirshfeld can be reached on (571) 272-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DAG


REN YAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER